



Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

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DMRS Reports at Protection from Harm Status Conference

The follow-up status conference regarding protection from harm issues was held on January 13, 2000. Counsel for all parties and members of the Quality Review Panel were present.

Defendants, with the assistance of Dr. Nancy Ray, expert for the Quality Review Panel, gave a report regarding their continued efforts to address the recommendations of the Quality Review Panel in their report on Protection from harm.

These activities include

- Establishment of a project team and advisory team;

- Draft policies on Life Sustaining Treatment, Mortality Review and Incident Management and Abuse Investigations;

- Reports compiled by Dr. Ray regarding elopements, serious injuries, substantiated report of abuse, neglect, exploitation and other mistreatment, and proposed disciplinary guidelines.

In addition, the defendants reported on their continuing efforts to address protection from harm issues.

There were concerns raised during this status conference and the parties have agreed to address these issues.

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The next status conference on the topic of Independent Support Coordination will be held on March 17, 2000.

A status conference on the topic of Behavioral Supports and Mental Health Services will be held on April 14, 2000.

A status conference on the topic of Protection from Harm will be held on June 16, 2000.

Regional Director
Division of Mental Retardation Services
Knoxville, TN

Dear Director:

This letter is regarding my sister, Patsy M. Walls, who is a resident of Reflections in Jacksboro, Tennessee. Patsy was moved from her home in LaFollette, Tennessee in the middle 50s to Clover Bottom. In the early 60s she was moved to Greene Valley. She remained a resident there until this past year when she was moved to Reflections.

When the talk of moving residents away from Greene Valley began a few years ago, my mother and I attended the meetings about the court's decisions and opposition to it. We had been pleased with the care she was receiving and felt that after 30+ years it was her home and wanted her to stay there.

After my mother's death, I was left to oversee Patsy's care. I began to ask questions and check on facilities. After hearing positive remarks and making visits, I made my decision to proceed with the move.

Several planning meetings were held with representatives from concerned agencies and myself. Although I believed that a good job was being done regarding the move, it was not an easy decision. As a matter of fact, it was one of the hardest things I have ever done. To make decisions for someone who cannot speak for herself is scary to say the least. I worried that she might be unhappy with the move and that it would be very traumatic for her.

Because of the pre-planning on the part of all concerned parties, the physical move went well. Now, many months later, I am happy to say that Patsy is doing great emotionally and physically. She suffered no emotional trauma from her move and she loves her surroundings and caregivers. I might add that she is now spoiled rotten. Ha!

I would recommend to anyone who has a resident that is to be moved to take matters into their own hands and initiate the move! I believe the longer they wait the less choices they will have for their loved ones. I also believe that all measures are taken to see that things are done with the resident in mind. If they have as good an experience as Patsy and I did, they have nothing to fear.

Sincerely,

Mary Walls Miller

Talk of Tennessee

*Technology Access
Leads to Knowledge
Conference*

April 3, 4 & 5, 2000
Regal Maxwell House
Nashville, TN

The
TALK of
Tennessee

- ❖ Featuring sessions on assistive technology for:
 - Young children with disabilities
 - School-age children with disabilities
 - Persons with hearing and vision disorders
 - Persons with autism spectrum disorders
 - Persons with mild, moderate and severe disabilities
- ❖ Exhibits by technology vendors with opportunities to try out devices first hand
- ❖ Computer lab for educational software

For more information contact Deborah Stedman at 865-787-6766.

Dan Finds Role Reversal Rewarding

Dan and his mother have been everything to each other since the death of his father over 30 years ago.

As his mother has been growing older, her worry about what will happen to her son has grown with each passing year. As can be expected, her health has been declining.

Through person-centered planning, Dan's circle of support clearly understood the importance of sustaining this very important relationship.

The traditional system response of

simply "placing" someone when their "natural" support system can no longer meet their needs would have been cruel.

Dan finds himself in the same position as many of us do with aging parents. Although a difficult role to assume, Dan is being supported in the reversed role of son taking care of his mother. He has a sense of pride and importance to have the opportunity to take care of his mother, her having dedicated a lifetime of taking care of him.

A flexible and responsive system of support is available to Dan within his family home. Sometimes this is just a few hours a day to help Dan take care of his personal needs and to keep the housework up.

Other times, when his mother is not feeling well or is hospitalized, the supports are provided around the clock.



Being able to stay in his own home has helped Dan have some sense of security during this very difficult time. It is Dan's and his mother's dream that he never has to leave the home and neighborhood he has grown to love.



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Changing Lives**
A publication of the
Division of
Mental Retardation
Services

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Barbara Brent, Deputy
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